



STATEMENT OF TURKEY

Ambassador Fatih Ceylan
Sherpa, Deputy Undersecretary

Mr. Chairman,

It gives me particular pleasure to attend the International Conference on Nuclear Security today. On behalf of my Minister, allow me, at the outset, to extend our thanks and appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing this useful and timely event.

We believe that the collegial atmosphere and cooperation not only among the dignitaries but also the participating experts will be most useful in our collective endeavor to uphold and strengthen nuclear security.

Mr. Chairman,

2013 is proving to be a volatile year. Many developments take place; most of them are unfortunately not heartening.

The international community is faced with multiple and somewhat intertwined challenges. The existing international mechanisms to overcome those challenges are not functioning as effectively as we would have wished. To name a few; the recent Second PrepCom of the NPT produced no tangible outcome. The Middle East Conference on establishing a WMD-free zone, a cause of contentment for all of us in 2010, unfortunately does not loom on the horizon. Conference on Disarmament is in a stalemate. CTBT is not in force. The need for stronger international cooperation and more robust political will on the part of states is pressing. In fact, there are some who do not hesitate to claim that there is *an overall malaise* in the whole mechanism.

One has to admit the picture looks bleak. The task is hard, but not insurmountable. Having persistent challenges is all the more a reason

for the international community to further solidify its ranks. It is our ardent belief the current challenges can be transformed into opportunities, if analyzed correctly and addressed in an understanding of cooperation and solidarity.

Against this backdrop, a world free of all weapons of mass destruction remains our common aspiration. Strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime is a collective responsibility. So is achieving irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament. No single country is able to achieve these goals or overcome related challenges on its own.

Nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious threats to global security and stability. Effective international cooperation is needed in order to prevent the acquisition of nuclear material and radioactive substances by unauthorized actors.

We are happy to see that since the inception of the Nuclear Security Summit, we have consolidated and expanded our global reach, with more States and international organizations participating in the Summit process. Coupled with an increased focus on implementation, this is a valid proof of the success of our joint initiative in addressing matters of nuclear security and nuclear terrorism with a greater sense of awareness and urgency.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say that the political stimulus generated by the Washington and Seoul Summits is gradually being translated into concrete actions. We are looking forward to a very successful Hague Summit next year. I must add, however, that there is no room for complacency.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me briefly share Turkey's experience in this regard.

- Basing ourselves on the commitments we have collectively undertaken in Washington, we are pursuing a three pillar strategy encompassing;
 - a sound legal framework consistent with highest international standards,
 - effective implementation and
 - international cooperation.
- As of October 2012, the International Convention for the

Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism entered into force.

- The ratification process of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material is under way. The text is at the General Assembly of the Turkish Parliament. The ratification process will be completed soon. In fact, legal and practical structures for the implementation of both instruments are already in place.
- Turkey fully supports the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and regularly reports to its Committee.
- Equally, we support and actively participate in parallel initiatives like the PSI.
- Turkey continues to review and update process of national regulation in the field of nuclear security. In this context, “Regulation on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities” and “Regulation on Nuclear Materials Accounting and Control” have been duly updated.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring energy security continues to be another major global challenge that needs to be addressed by the international community as a whole.

In the case of Turkey, our fast economic growth creates a parallel increase in our energy demand. As a country meeting more than half of its energy needs from imported fossil fuels, it is of vital importance for us to expand our energy supply portfolio. In this regard, we give great importance to diversification of energy resources in our long term plans. We plan to increase nuclear energy percentage in our overall energy supply to around 10 % in 2020.

The main components of Turkey’s energy strategy could be summarised as follows:

- increasing the share of renewable energy resources, adding nuclear energy to our energy mix and aspiring to bring its share to approximately %10 by 2020,
- improving energy efficiency and
- diversifying its energy sources/suppliers as well as supply routes, and contributing to the energy security of Europe through projects enabling uninterrupted flow of these resources to Western markets.

Turkey is a strong supporter of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a right emanating from the NPT. Naturally this right comes with obligations. Turkey wishes to enjoy the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to the maximum possible; while ensuring impeccable safety, security and non-proliferation measures and safeguards. Our priority lies with the security and well-being of human life, as well as with the protection of the environment. To this end, Turkey aims to implement nuclear power plant projects in accordance with the highest international nuclear security and safety standards. Our progress in building nuclear stations will also be guided by lessons learned from the unfortunate Fukushima incident.

Mr. Chairman,

Mindful of the time and by way of conclusion, let me add my voice to those who have commended the Agency for its contributions to nuclear security. The IAEA indeed has a leading role in our endeavors. Its central role in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents has been instrumental. Moreover, the implementation assistance provided to the willing Member States has, according to our records, been most useful. We should strive to support the Agency, as generously as possible, with the financial resources that it may require to effectively discharge its duties. Turkey's assistance to and cooperation with the Agency will continue unabated.

Thank you.